

B. REMARKS

In this reply, Claims 22, 26, 32, 60 and 64 have been canceled and new Claims 69-89 have been added. Hence, Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17-21, 23-25, 27-31, 33-46, 48-53, 55-59, 61-63 and 65-89 are pending in this application. The amendments to the claims and the new claims do not add any new matter to this application. All issues raised in the Office Action mailed December 21, 2005 are addressed hereinafter.

ALLOWABILITY OF CLAIMS

The indicated allowability of Claims 22-24, 26-30, 32-38, 60-62 and 64-68 is gratefully acknowledged. These claims have been rewritten in independent form as follows:

Independent Claim 21 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable Claim 22 and Claim 22 has been canceled.

Independent Claim 25 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable Claim 26 and Claim 26 has been canceled.

Independent Claim 31 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable dependent Claim 32 and Claim 32 has been canceled.

Independent Claim 59 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable dependent Claim 60 and Claim 60 has been canceled.

Independent Claim 63 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable Claim 64 and Claim 64 has been canceled.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 21, 25, 31, 59 AND 63 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 21, 25, 31, 59 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wang* in view of *Sankaranarayanan et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,134,274 (hereinafter "*Sankaranarayanan*"). Claims 21, 25, 31, 59 and 63 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claims. Specifically, Claim 21 was amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 22. Claim 25 was amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 26. Claim 31 was amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 32. Claim 59 was amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 60. Claim 63 was amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 64.

In view of the amendments made herein, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 21, 25, 31, 59 and 63, as amended, are patentable over *Wang* and *Sankaranarayanan*. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 21, 25, 31, 59 and 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wang* in view of *Sankaranarayanan* is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS 69-89

New Claims 69-81 recite limitations similar to Claims 1-8 and 10-14, except in the context of apparatuses. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 69-81 are patentable over *Wang* and *Sankaranarayanan* for at least the reasons set forth herein with respect to Claims 1-8 and 10-14. New Claims 82-86 recite limitations similar to Claims 16 and 17-20, except in the context of apparatuses. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 82-86 are patentable over *Wang* and *Sankaranarayanan* for at least the reasons set forth herein with respect to Claims 16 and 17-20. New Claims 87-89 recite limitations similar to Claims 21, 23 and 24, except in the context of apparatuses. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 87-89 are patentable over *Wang* and *Sankaranarayanan* for at least the reasons set forth herein with respect to Claims 21, 23 and 24.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and the issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



Edward A. Becker

Reg. No. 37,777

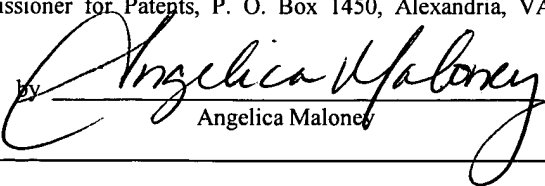
Date: March 21, 2006

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, CA 95110
Phone: (408) 414-1080 ext. 204
Facsimile: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **Mail Stop Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on March 21, 2006

by 
Angelica Maloney